

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing system comprising:

a requester apparatus for making a request for a process;

5 a processing apparatus for executing the requested process; and

an accounting apparatus for charging for the executed process, wherein:

the processing apparatus includes at least one processing

10 unit for executing the requested process; and

the accounting apparatus includes:

an accounting amount calculation unit for calculating accounting amount for the executed process; and

15 a accounting processing unit for performing an accounting processing on the basis of the calculated accounting amount.

2. The image processing system according to claim 1,

20 wherein:

the requester apparatus requests the processing apparatus to perform an image processing upon image data and an image formation processing on the basis of the processed image data;

the processing apparatus further includes:

25 a first image processing unit for executing the

requested image processing upon the image data; and
an image formation unit for executing the image
formation processing of the image data subjected to the
image processing;

5 the accounting apparatus includes a first accounting
amount calculation unit for calculating a first accounting
amount for the executed image processing; and
 the accounting processing unit executes the accounting
processing of charging the requester apparatus, which requests
10 the processing apparatus to perform the image processing and
the image formation processing, for the calculated first
charging amount.

3. The image processing system according to claim 2,
15 wherein:

 the accounting apparatus further includes a second
accounting amount calculation unit for calculating a second
accounting amount for the executed image formation processing;
and

20 the accounting processing unit charges the requester
apparatus, which requests the processing apparatus to perform
the image processing and the image formation processing, for
the calculated first accounting amount and the calculated second
accounting amount.

4. The image processing system according to claim 2,
wherein:

the requester apparatus is a plurality of requester
apparatuses;

5 at least one of the requester apparatuses includes a second
image processing unit for performing the requested image
processing;

the processing apparatus requests the at least one of
the requester apparatuses, which includes the second image
10 processing unit, to execute the requested image processing;
and

the first accounting amount calculation unit of the
accounting apparatus changes the first accounting amount in
response to which of the processing apparatus and the at least
15 one of the requester apparatuses including the second image
processing unit has executed the image processing.

5. The image processing system according to claim 4,
wherein:

20 the image processing includes a plurality of processing
elements; and

the processing apparatus requests the at least one of
the requester apparatuses including the second image processing
unit to execute the requested image processing for each of the
25 processing elements included in the image processing.

6. The image processing system according to claim 5,
wherein the first accounting amount calculation unit of the
accounting apparatus changes the first accounting amount in
5 response to which of the processing apparatus and the at least
one of the requester apparatuses including the second image
processing unit has executed each of the processing elements
included in the image processing.

10 7. The image processing system according to claim 2,
wherein:

the processing apparatus further has an authentication
unit for authenticating the requester unit; and
the processing unit executes a process requested from
15 the authenticated requester apparatus.

8. The image processing system according to claim 2,
wherein the image processing is a correction processing of
correcting the image data on the basis of the characteristic
20 of the image formation unit.

9. An accounting apparatus for charging for a process
for image data, executed in response to a request from a requester,
wherein the process for the image data includes at least a
25 predetermined image processing for the image data and an image

formation processing of the image data subjected to the image processing, the accounting apparatus comprising:

a first accounting amount calculation unit for calculating a first accounting amount for the executed image
5 processing; and

an accounting unit for executing an accounting processing of charging the requester, which has made the request for the image processing and the image formation processing, for the calculated first accounting amount.

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10. The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a second accounting amount calculation unit for calculating a second accounting amount for the executed image
15 formation processing, wherein:

the accounting unit executes the accounting processing of charging the requester, which has made the request for the image processing and the image formation processing, for the calculated first accounting amount and the calculated second
20 accounting amount.

11. The accounting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the requester includes a first requester apparatus and
25 a second requester apparatus; and

the first accounting amount calculation unit increases
the first accounting amount for the first requester apparatus
when the second requester apparatus executes the image
processing requested by the first requester apparatus.

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12. The accounting apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein:

the requester includes a first requester apparatus and
a second requester apparatus; and

10 the first accounting amount calculation unit decreases
the first accounting amount for the second requester apparatus
when the second requester apparatus executes the image
processing requested by the first requester apparatus and then
the image processing requested by the second requester apparatus
15 is executed.

13. The accounting apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein:

20 the request for the image processing designates details
of the image processing; and

the first accounting amount calculation unit calculates
the first accounting amount on the basis of the designated
details of the image processing.

25 14. An image processing method comprising:

making a request for a process;
executing the requested process;
calculating an accounting amount for the executed process; and

5 executing an accounting processing on the basis of the calculated accounting amount.

15. The image processing method according to claim 14,
wherein:

10 the requested process includes an image processing for image data and an image formation processing for the processed image data;

the execution of the requested process includes executing the image processing with respect to the image data in response
15 to the request and then executing the image formation processing of the image data subjected to the image processing;

the calculation of the accounting amount includes calculating a first accounting amount for the executed image processing;

20 the accounting processing includes charging the first accounting amount for a requester, which has made the request.

16. An accounting method for charging for each of processings for image data, which is executed in response to
25 a request from a requester, wherein the processings include

a predetermined image processing for the image data and an image formation processing for the image data subjected to the image processing, the method comprising:

calculating a first accounting amount for the executed
5 image processing; and

executing an accounting processing of charging the requester, which has made the request for the image processing and the image formation processing, for the calculated first accounting amount.

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17. The accounting method according to claim 16,
wherein:

the requester includes a first requester apparatus and a second requester apparatus; and

15 the accounting processing increases the first accounting amount for the first requester apparatus when the second requester apparatus executes the image processing requested by the first requester apparatus.

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